

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

DATE: 16 OCTOBER 2013

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Zach Waterson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- b. THOMAS ROGERS led the invocation.
- c. 4 were absent; 0 were late.
- d. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 9 OCTOBER 2013 executive summary. *The 9 OCTOBER 2013 executive summary was approved at [TIME] p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
 - i.
- b. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Was absent today, and her reports were given by Zach Waterson, Keenan Hall Senator, who chaired today's meeting.
 - ii. Welcome to Mary Susan!
 - iii. Please remember that you are required to go to all of your department meetings, and remember that absences there count into your absences for senate.
- c. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
 - i. The ProgBoard calendar is now on the SAO website.

III. General Orders

- a. Conversation on Dorm-Based Sexual Violence Response
 - i. Kyle McCaffery brought up that he talked to O'Neill. They said if it was just a meal, that it would not be as helpful. Also, he would like to do it in concert with McGlenn, their sister dorm.
 - ii. Juan Jose Daboub does not think that girls would feel open to discuss with men present, and vice versa.
 - iii. Rohan Andresen said originally this was intended to be man to man, women to women, so no one would feel like there would be any pointed fingers.
 - iv. Melissa Krumdick asked Kyle M. what was meant by the same thing being said over and over again.
 1. The boys thought that it would just be said that sexual assault is bad. He does not understand how just boys cannot have a conversation. They may need someone from the GRC to facilitate the discussion.
 - a. Carolina Wilson agrees with this. Someone should be there to assist in facilitating the discussion.

- v. Alex Coccia would like to ask the senate, that we need to be aware of what message we want. What is the message?
 - 1. Angel Zambrano brought up many of these incidents happen because of alcohol abuse, maybe a focus on the alcohol could help.
 - vi. Casey Skevington brought up many of the Farley residents do not understand necessarily what rape is coming in as freshman. Some sort of training should happen, for all ages.
 - 1. Rohan A. said this was brought up at his hall council. Most guys hold that rape is what you see on law and order, and non consensual sex induced by alcohol isn't always seen as malicious rape. This needs to be shown that no consent is synonymous to rape.
 - vii. Zach W. asked if there should be meetings if there is just a report? Especially if it is less founded?
 - 1. Kyle M. thinks it would depend on the manner of the conversation. If it is around blame, yes. But, we should be extra careful about the conversation not to blame certain dorms or to generalize certain dorms as how the conversation goes. It should be what is sexual assault, how does alcohol contribute.
 - viii. Dottie Schlueter brought up that it should be done in section size small groups. Her hall president asked if this is event something that they can mandate given the confidentiality of the victim.
 - 1. Alex C. said it would depend on anyone who is a non confidential reporter we would not want them present if someone wanted to share something and not have it reported. What do you mean about the question?
 - a. Dottie S. thought it was going to happen in the dorm in which it occurred. Because of the touchiness of the accused, would this even be possible?
 - i. Alex C. brought up there are options. It could happen that a majority of halls do this after an incident, or all halls. The report is a level of awareness, this would be a response like the prayer services.
 - 1. Casey S. brought up it could be very touchy with the person, and the friends not just the victim.
 - ix. Michael Masi, who was not here last week but read the minutes, asked what does it mean to have something mandatory? What is the message of having it mandatory versus natural? There is no reason to make this mandatory; the primary interest of students is academics. Given the nature of schedules, what would this look like? Some students are in labs until 9pm at night.
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1. Rohan A. said the reasoning would be to have the students that would not necessarily be inclined to go to be there. If it was missed, you would have to talk to your rector or AR. You would need the rector's consent to go through with this. His rector in Sigfried is all for this.
 - x. Carolina W. representing seniors, many of which are off campus, is there a way to include off campus students? They are also able to facilitate conversation, they may have some very useful insight to share.
 - xi. Olivia LaMagna asked the freshman class president Andrew Green what his opinion was, given that he does not have the years of context and has had a different orientation experience?
 1. Andrew Green said that the talks in Keough were not taken seriously, and they make jokes saying it wasn't actually sexual assault. There was not too much orientation for frosh so that he found. Hopefully no more questions?
 2. Kyle M. had conversations with boys in his section earlier in the year about sexual assault, and found that the consensus was that the information that guys bring to the conversation because the three guys he spoke to was that they felt sexual assault was bad but that it was committed by someone who is bad. They could not understand how someone could commit this without consent. It was normal for consent to always be there. This was horrifying, to Kyle, that they could not conceive of this.
 - xii. Cristin Pacifico spoke with various rAs and at HPC, and found that being aware of how you present yourself. Guys have said to be aware of going out in groups and coming back together and what they are wearing. RAs are keeping track of what the girls are wearing and who is coming back alone.
 - xiii. Michael M. is nervous about the mandatory thing. He understands that we are trying to reach everyone, but where do you make this mandatory and what authority do rector's have or the university to enforce something like this. It seems impractical to him to make a mandatory meeting when there is nothing that says this is mandatory now. He would be interested to hear what other people think about this.
 1. Rohan A., following up on this, that as a sophomore in a mens dorm he has had no mandatory meetings for his dorm. He sees nothing at this point like this, and thinks if we worked and made it mandatory, it would be good. There is no more pressing or important of an issue than sexual assault right now. He hears girls dorms have a lot of mandatory meetings, but boys dorms do not.
 - xiv. Katie McCarty sent out a survey to PE, and the responses were 50/50. Her rector thought it would be better to have it as proactive, not just a response after it happens.
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- xv. Stephen Scobee brought up that Sorin had a mandatory meeting, and about 70 percent were there and they had no way of counting because the sign in sheet only made it half way around the room.
 - xvi. Carolina W. thinks that if people don't want to come to begin with, they may sit there with their arms crossed. Will this get us what we want? She is unsure of an alternative.
 - xvii. Kyle M. would like to try and offer a compromise, in a sense. He likes Michael M's point. We have a perspective as student leaders that other students do not. Everyone here is a leader and wants to bring change, this may not be a driving factor in the rest of campus. We also do have an image associated with us. If we say something is mandated, we get a lashback. We are perceived as impersonal, so we need to change that image. He doesn't think we can make a mandatory hall thing, but something that all the halls do. The conversation has to happen. If we can at least start the conversation by having every dorm start it, even if its just a few people in the dorm like just the leaders. We want this to be grassroots. It will start small.
 - xviii. Thomas Rogers thinks that what he is trying to say is where else do we go? What else can we do to solve these pressing issues? He thinks it must be mandatory, because he can see maybe five or six people coming to a section meetings for 15. And practically for off campus, how do you get them to come to a meeting?
 - 1. Michael M. said there is nothing to hold them accountable.
 - 2. Rohan A. said that off campus incidences go through off campus police.
 - a. Carolina W. said that since the university is a private institution, it is its own little town. The South Bend tribune, when they try to cover sexual assaults, they do not have information to use from the university. If it is off campus, they can get this information.
 - b. Rohan A. would like to address that the first step is to address on campus. Also, he agrees with Kyle that this should be grass roots.
 - xix. Juan Jose D. said back to what Katie said, did Sister Cindy have any ideas?
 - 1. Katie M. said a meeting before anything happened, not after.
 - xx. Michael Lindt said that maybe you could incorporate this into an activity in a section. Like before a movie have a 30 minute conversation, this could bridge the gap.
 - xxi. Stephanie Klotter said logistically speaking with space, that this could be by year. In Walsh, they have meetings before dances and if you don't go you cannot go to the dance and you are fined.
 - xxii. Olivia L. asked if there has been discussion to bring it into Contemporary Topics.
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1. Joe Kelly said that it was covered, he remembered taking it and splitting up into small groups and writing a paper.
 2. Olivia L. asked if this was informative.
 - a. Joe K. said that it was not a very comfortable topic among strangers, so in the dorm with small groups could be a good idea for people to open up.
 - xxiii. Andrew G. said that he has not yet had a specifically sexual assault class. Mainly it is about alcohol abuse, which is still good because that is relevant. In a mens dorms, they have not had conversations about this.
 - xxiv. Casey S. said that before any freshman starts, there could be a program and then you could have a meeting when you were on campus.
 - xxv. Juan Jose D. asked if there could be a better, more relevant video in college has issues?
 1. Monica Daegele said that this program was redone since he has been through it. Andrew G. went through it.
 2. Juan Jose D. asked if we could see it?
 3. Monica D. said that this program is so much better now.
 4. Juan Jose D. would like to see the video.
 - a. Monica D. said that this was not a video, it was a program. There was much discussion. There are currently analyzing survey data from this.
 - b. Andrew G. said that you had to talk to get your football tickets. The main thing was what do you do when you have a friend that needs help at a party.
 - xxvi. Rohan A. was unsure what Christin P. was talking about earlier with the dorms?
 1. Christin P. specified that it was kept track of who the girls were coming back with, or who they were bringing back, and what they were wearing or lack thereof. A few guys commented on what girls wear when they go out. With college has issues, it was emphasized that it is not the victims fault, but to be aware how people present themselves.
 - xxvii. Erin Killmurray brought up many people off campus are robbed, including men. Never be alone. She would also feel more comfortable opening up about this issue in front of girls in the dorm. She asked Andrew G. about this program, do you think this is as helpful at the beginning or waiting a month? People come in and do not see that rape is not just something on tv. Do you think that having it after a while is better?
 1. Andrew G. thinks it is important to be educated before being thrown into these situations. It was a busy weekend. He does not think anyone thinks that program was at the forefront of anyones mind, maybe if there was focus later on. They gave them information about staying in groups and how to contact police.
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xxviii. Alex C. brought up that in the new program, there are two follow up programs for diversity and from the GRC for freshman.

xxix. The discussion was tabled for the Gender Issues Committee.

IV. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

V. Announcements

- a. Steph K. said thank you for all who attended Irish State of Mind! She would love to hear any feedback about the events, please feel free to email her sklotter@nd.edu
- b. Sarah Senseman has posters about puppy days, each senator please take two.
 - i. Andrew Lall asked if they were real puppies.
 - 1. Sarah S. is unsure.
- c. Meghan Gallagher said also on Friday, BP and Lewis are cosponsoring Oktoberfest on North Quad
- d. Kyle M. announced that at Friday at 7pm at DPAC MacBeth is playing life broadcast
- e. Juan Jose D. said at 12:31pm on Friday everyone is invited to view the spectacle
- f. Michael M. announced that hurling is coming to ND, this is a big deal. It will be this Saturday at 3pm. It is really awesome to watch. This is at the lacrosse stadium, this will only last an hour.
- g. Michael Lindt announced 191 days until the regatta.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Without objection, *the 16 OCTOBER 2013 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria Chloe Wellman
Student Union Secretary
